Uniform national policy on drinking water in rural areas

1150. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve a uniform national policy on drinking water in rural areas;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Drinking Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing drinking water supply in rural areas are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Rural Drinking Water component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The State Governments have the powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural drinking water supply schemes. As per information received from States till 19.2.2002, out of the 14,22,664 rural habitations in the country, 12,58,280 have already been fully covered and 1,46,674 have been covered partially covered with drinking water supply facilities. Only 17,710 habitations still remain to be covered with drinking water supply facilities.

National Agenda for Governance of the Government envisages coverage of all the rural habitations with drinking water facility by the year 2004. As such, there is no proposal to evolve a national policy exclusively on drinking water in rural areas.